

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

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FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY'S PARTY/TOM RESTON FROM S/PRS(TRATTNER)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING JULY 22

1. MILITARY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE FOR ISRAEL: IN RESPONSE TO
NUMEROUS QUESTIONS, FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED. AS
PART OF CONTINUING U.S. MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH
ISRAEL, USG HAS AGREED TO APPROVE A NUMBER OF ITEMS FOR
ISRAEL. THEY ARE HELICOPTERS, HYDROFOIL PATROL CRAFT, AND
AMMUNITION OF A ROUTINE NATURE. U.S. HAS ALSO DECIDED TO
APPROVE ISRAELI REQUEST FOR \$107 MILLION IN U.S. FINANCING
UNDER FMS PROCEDURES TO HELP ISRAEL SUPPORT PRODUCTION OF
ITS LOCALLY-MANUFACTURED CHARIOT TANK. WE, OF COURSE, DO
NOT MAKE PUBLIC THE DETAILS OF THESE DECISIONS. THEY ARE
BEING COMMUNICATED TO CONGRESS IN THE USUAL WAY, WHICH IS
LETTER OF OFFER NOTIFICATION. BUT GENERAL MAGNITUDE OF THE
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PROPOSED TRANSACTION IS \$250 MILLION (WHICH INCLUDES THE
\$107 MILLION CHARIOT ITEM). ISRAELI REQUEST FOR F-16 AND
ITS CO-PRODUCTION REMAIN UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION, AS DO
A NUMBER OF OTHER ITEMS IN THE CONTINUING MILITARY SUPPLY
RELATIONSHIP. AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, THE U.S. IS COMMITTED
IN PRINCIPLE TO SUPPLY THE F-16 TO ISRAEL, A COMMITMENT
TAKEN FROM THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. WHAT WE HAVE UNDER

CONSIDERATION ARE NUMBERS, DELIVERY TIMES AND THE CO-PRODUCTION REQUEST. THE DECISION TO APPROVE \$107 MILLION FOR CHARIOT PRODUCTION WAS BASED ON CAREFUL STUDY WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT; THE CONCLUSION WAS THAT ANSWERING THE ISRAELI REQUEST WAS BEST WAY TO PROCEED IN LINE WITH WHAT WE HAVE OFTEN SAID ABOUT OUR COMMITMENT TO SECURITY OF ISRAEL. NO CO-PRODUCTION IS INVOLVED IN THIS CHARIOT DECISION; THE APPLICATION OF U.S. FINANCING FROM OUR MILITARY AID PROGRAM IS NOT CO-PRODUCTION. IT IS SIMPLY FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THEIR DEFENSE PRODUCTION. THE HYDROFOIL TRANSACTION HOWEVER, DOES INVOLVE A MIXTURE OF SOME PURCHASES IN THE U.S. AND SOME CO-PRODUCTION. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER THESE DEALS HAVE ANY BEARING ON MOMENTUM OR LACK OF MOMENTUM TOWARD GENEVA CONFERENCE, AND WHETHER THEY WERE MADE APART FROM BEGIN VISIT, I SAID I WOULD NOT TIE THEM TOGETHER.

2. U.S. FISHING BOAT TAKEN BY CUBA: BASED IN KEY WEST, BOAT (THE BOUNTY) WAS SEIZED BY CUBAN PATROL CRAFT OFF CUBA NORTHERN COAST MORNING JULY 21. WE HAVE MADE INQUIRY THROUGH SWISS, ASKING FOR EXPLANATION AND RETURN OF BOAT AND CREW.

3. I ANNOUNCED AUGUST 5-19 VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA AND CUBA (TEN COUNTRIES) OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG. TRIP IS DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS WITH NATIONS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGION ON GLOBAL, REGIONAL, AND BILATERAL MATTERS. HE WILL IN PARTICULAR BE DISCUSSING MATTERS TO ARISE AT UNGA SEPTEMBER SESSION. YOUNG WILL ALSO BRIEFLY STOP IN PUERTO RICO. IN RESPONSE QUESTION, I SAID TODMAN WOULD VISIT ARGENTINA, CHILE, URUGUAY AND PARAGUAY IN EARLY AUGUST.

4. I ALSO SAID SECRETARY PLANS NEWS CONFERENCE MORNING JULY 29.

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